

House Bill 899

By: Representatives Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, Millar of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Chambers of the 81<sup>st</sup>, and Levitas of the 82<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 5 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to organization of county government, so as to provide a short title; to provide that the General Assembly may create chief executive officer/county commission forms of government for county governing authorities; to limit the powers of the chief executive officer in such form of government; to provide for an exception for existing chief executive officer/county commission forms of government; to provide for a referendum to make existing chief executive officer/county commission forms subject to such limitation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 5 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to organization of county government, is amended by adding a new Article 1 to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 1

36-5-1.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'County Chief Executive Officer Accountability Act.'

36-5-2.

(a) The General Assembly by local Act may create chief executive officer/county commission forms of government for county governing authorities, provided that the chief executive officer shall not have the power:

- (1) To preside over meetings of the county commission;
- (2) To set the agenda for meetings of the county commission;
- (3) To veto ordinances and other actions of the county commission; or

(4) To vote on any matter at a meeting of the county commission.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, this Code section shall not apply to counties which have an existing chief executive officer/county commission form of government on July 1, 2008.

(c)(1) Each county which has an existing chief executive officer/county commission form of government on July 1, 2008, shall submit to the electors of the county at the November 2008 general election in a referendum the question of whether this Code section shall apply to the county governing authority. Such referendum shall be called and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the referendum to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the county. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

"( ) YES Shall the provisions of the 'County Chief Executive Officer Accountability Act,' which remove the power of the chief executive officer to preside over meetings of the county commission, to set the agenda for meetings of the county commission, to veto ordinances and other actions of the county commission, and to vote at meetings of the county commission, be made applicable to \_\_\_\_\_ County?"

All persons desiring to vote in favor of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring to vote against the question shall vote "No."

(2) If more than one-half of the votes cast on such question are in favor of the question, this Code section shall apply to such county and become of full force and effect on January 1, 2009. In such cases, the county commission shall establish by ordinance or resolution procedures for the selection of a presiding officer and the establishing of agenda for meetings of the county commission. If the question is not so approved or if the election is not conducted as provided in this section, this Code section shall not apply to such county.

(3) The expense of such election shall be borne by the county. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State."

## SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.